

US Chess League Begins on Monday Night

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SF Mechanics Team Logo

by Michael Aigner

The **US Chess League** begins on Monday night with three dynamite matches. The one most likely to attract attention on the west coast will pit the **San Francisco Mechanics** against division rival **Seattle Sluggers**. While Seattle's top board GM **Hikaru Nakamura** will no doubt be unavailable because he is playing in Holland at the **Rising Stars Versus Experience** tournament, the Sluggers still have solid GM **Gregory Serper**, star teenager FM **Michael Lee** and a diverse supporting cast.

With what lineup will the Mechanics counter? First read about the 2009 **team roster** in this post from two weeks ago. Next check

out intriguing **possibilities**:

- Wolff, Friedel, Shankland, Liou = 2397, 2492
- Friedel, Bhat, Shankland, Liou = 2372, 2465 -- *top two are just about "GGGg"*
- Friedel, Kraai, Naroditsky, Liou = 2378, 2443
- Kraai, Shankland, Naroditsky, Young = 2384, 2437
- Kraai, Pruess, Naroditsky, Young = 2400.75, 2409

(The first number is the official rating, using the September 2008 list. This average must be below 2401 each week. The second number is current USCF average.)

Log into ICC next Monday evening to watch LIVE beginning at 6:00pm PDT. Type the command `/finger USCL` to find the games, or look under the Events window.

US Chess League Schedule for San Francisco Mechanics

- Mon 8/31: **Seattle Sluggers**
- Wed 9/9: **Dallas Destiny**
- Wed 9/16: **Miami Sharks**
- Mon 9/21: **Chicago Blaze**
- Wed 9/30: **New York Knights**
- Wed 10/7: **Miami Sharks**
- Wed 10/14: **Arizona Scorpions**
- Wed 10/21: **Queens Pioneers**
- Mon 10/26: **Tennessee Tempo**
- Wed 11/4: **Dallas Destiny**
- Wed 11/11: **Quarterfinals**
- Wed 11/18: **Semifinals**
- Sat 12/5: **League Championship**